

February 6, 2007

To: Members of the House Business and Labor Committee

RE: HB 360

Honorable Committee Members,

Many of us learn a lot about life through sports. We learn the importance of hard work, maintaining focus, and the need to work as a team. In July of 2003, some of us learned a much more somber lesson. We learned that sports aren't always fun and games. We learned that in a split second, everything can change.

I am aware that a lot of folks will struggle with this bill. Frankly, I find that fact sad and a bit confusing. This certainly isn't a partisan bill. It is a bill aimed at preventing a tragedy that sent shockwaves through this state. **Everyone can** agree that no community should be put through the nightmare that became our reality just over three years ago.

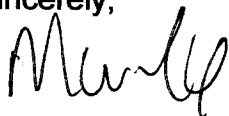
I know a concern about **government regulation in private industry will prevent** some for voting for this bill. I am a firm believer of personal accountability and **limited government**. However, in certain instances the government must **intervene when private industry fails**. The sad truth is people are dying. Children are dying. It is not only acceptable for the government to intervene, it is a **responsibility that was ordained upon each and every one of you the day you took office**.

The government regulates how many hours we can work, they regulate how fast we can drive, what we can take on an airplane and even whom we can marry. Asking them to regulate what kind of bats we allow our children to use is not a landmark issue.

Two years ago the opposition told us Brandon's death was a freak accident. Two months later another life was taken. Although Billy Kalant is still alive, his brain damage is so severe his life will never be the same. Freak accidents don't occur this frequently.

You have the life of the next child in your hands. Please consider this bill on its merits. It will not cost the state a penny, it will add to the safety of our children, and it will prevent other Montana communities from facing the same nightmare.

Sincerely,



Matt Wilcox  
Bozeman, MT

To: Members of the House Business and Labor Committee  
From: Matt Wilcox  
Re: HB 360

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THE MORE LIKELY AN OPTIMUM HIT WILL  
OCCUR.

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MORE CATASTROPHIC INJURIES!